



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 13, 2009
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae
Docket #: 2:07-cr-543-EJG

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GOLD RIVER MAN SENTENCED TO 6.5 YEARS IN PRISON FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that TIMOTHY STOLESE, 48, of Gold River, Calif., was sentenced today by United States District Judge Edward J. Garcia to six-and-a-half years in prison to be followed by eight years of supervised release for receiving and distributing child pornography. In addition, he will be required to register as a sex offender. STOLESE pleaded guilty to receiving and distributing material involving the sexual exploitation of minors on September 26, 2008.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Carolyn Delaney and Laura Ferris, who prosecuted the case, STOLESE came to the attention of law enforcement in connection with an investigation of an Australian Web site that offered child pornography for sale over the Internet. Subsequent investigation discovered that STOLESE had made at least four online purchases of child pornography from multiple Web sites, including sites called “Desired Angels,” “Sick Child Room,” and “Illegal.CP.” The cost of the purchases ranged from \$79.79 to \$99.95.

ICE agents executed a search warrant at STOLESE’s house in September 2007 and found 2,929 still images and 133 video images of child pornography on his computer. The images contained a variety of sexual acts between adults and minors.

These images included a series of depictions of various sex acts with a minor female under the age of 12. Through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s “Innocent Images” program, authorities were able to identify her. She had previously prepared a victim impact statement discussing her victimization by another person.

Prosecutors read that statement today in court where she described the sexual abuse that she suffered at the hands of her natural father when she was 11 years old. She said that when she learned that her father had videotaped the abuse and distributed it through the Internet for others to download and view, her “breath was knocked out of [her] at the sight of the first image and [she] felt [herself] breaking again.”

The victim requested that the court “bring them some real justice” because “[e]ach person who has found enjoyment in these sick images needs to be brought to justice and kept away from other people because there is something seriously wrong with them. They are dangerous and even though I don’t know them, they are hurting me still. They have exploited me in the most horrible way.”

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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